A Message From The Deputy Grand Master

Words cannot express the feelings I have lodged within my heart. The Craft has seen fit to elect me and give me the opportunity to serve our great Fraternity. As we close one successful Masonic Year and embark on another, I call on every Mason and their families to support the programs and committees and the Brothers selected to head them.

My vision this coming year is to find a way to better communicate, assist, respect, and educate one another within our great Fraternity; communicate openly with each other. Assist our Brothers and families in need. Respect each other, both inside and outside of the walls of our Lodges. Educate all to prepare for your future. C.A.R.E. Brothers we must CARE; display our morals, honor, and integrity and work together in peace and harmony at all times thus characterizing us as Freemasons!

Only then will we, the Craft, become Freemasons United Together Under Ritual Ethics or FUTURE. Brothers we must begin now to CARE for our FUTURE!

I read an article in the Knights Templar that mirrored some of my thoughts in regards to the direction our Fraternity is taking. These folks were in agreement with the Neo-Moderns that something had to be done, because they believed that as numbers swelled, the character, morality, respect, and support has somehow caused the problem, and that it needs to be solved in an entirely different manner than that suggested by the Neo-Moderns.

"Expect Perfection - Settle For Excellence"

"Friendship, Morality, and Brotherly Love."

"There are angels among us" has a very deep meaning for many of us. My daughter, Tracey, has been a true Blessing and has been with me in all my travels and I thank her for being there for me and for her mother.

She has truly made this a rewarding year and I am sure everyone for providing her with such overwhelming love and support.

In conclusion, I want to thank the Craft for truly engaging the spirit of "Friendship, Morality, and Brotherly Love." With your help and understanding we have been able to reduce and eliminate many charges and trials and we will move into the new year with only a couple issues pending. I continue to urge you to solve our problems through good communications in a Brother to Brother manner.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Grand Lodge and now may God Bless each and every one of you, may God Bless our great Fraternity and may God Bless the United States of America and all who serve it!

Sincerely and Fraternally,

M. W. James W. Ford
Grand Master

A Message From The Grand Master

OW!! WOW!! WOW!! The end of another Masonic Year draws near and as we approach the 186th Annual Grand Communication, I want express my appreciation to the Craft and to the Ladies for the friendship and support you have provided to my daughter Tracey and I. Your friendship and support has meant so much to both of us and you have made us feel welcome and at home where ever we traveled.

You have made my job pleasant and so enjoyable and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I also want to say how thankful I am for God for the many Blessings that have been provided. Yes, there have been many challenges, but in our journey through life there ever walks beside us an Eternal Friend whose all powerful hand is always ready to guide and support us through all the difficulties and trials that may come to us.

I offer my appreciation to the Elected Grand Lodge Officers and the Appointed Grand Lodge Officers for their support and to their Ladies for supporting and helping Tracey in such a loving and helpful manner.

I want to thank the District Deputy Grand Masters and their Ladies for their support and the hospitality and reception at the Official Visits. Your efforts and hard work were truly outstanding. Also, I appreciate your efforts in conveying my message and my slogan “Expect Perfection – Settle for Excellence” and the theme of “Friendship, Morality, and Brotherly Love”.

I want to thank all the District Instructors and the State and Zone Chairmen for communicating the virtues of the Grand Lodge Programs to the Craft. You are a vital part of the success or failure of these programs and I thank you for all you do. I also thank all who serve on the various panels and committees for your service and dedication.

I want to thank Ms. Wendy John, my Personal Secretary and Grand Lodge Office Manager, and her staff for all the work they do at the Grand Lodge Office and for their dedication to our Fraternity. Their efforts are outstanding.

To Mrs. Lisa Totsotn, Administrator of the Masonic Home, and her staff, I thank you for providing such a wonderful place of security and comfort for the Residents. We had a great Pilgrimage Day and the First Lady’s Project was a huge success. We thank everyone for the many donations and on behalf of Tracey and I, we have your deepest gratitude. Joy would have been so proud.

To the Officers of the Masonic Home, I thank you for a very engaging year and a year of hard work and dedication. Thank you for your efforts to bring about stabilization and action that will move us into the future.

I want to thank each and every Member of the Craft for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Grand Master. The opportunity to meet and interact with so many wonderful people has been an opportunity beyond my wildest dreams and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

In addition, I want to thank my wife Joy for her support. Although, she could not be with me the last two years, it just was not to be, she has been at my side with every step I’ve taken, and the words “there are angels among us” has a very deep meaning for many of us. My daughter, Tracey, has been a true Blessing and has been with me in all my travels and I thank her for being there for me and for her mother.

She has truly made this a rewarding year and I am sure everyone for providing her with such overwhelming love and support.

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I look forward to seeing everyone at Grand Lodge and now may God Bless each and every one of you, may God Bless our great Fraternity and may God Bless the United States of America and all who serve it!

Sincerely and Fraternally,

M. W. James W. Ford
Grand Master
A Message From The Senior Grand Warden

It's that time of the year I have come to dislike, the email that says it's time for your message for The Florida Mason. What to write? Is it going to be a "kumbaya" message, an inspiring message, or a get it off my chest message? I have chosen none of the above! I am going to write about the reflection of the past year.

After the Southeast Conference Meeting in August of last year shared with you, the Craft, the discussions held, little did I know where that would take me. I have held several "Town Hall Meetings" around the state about Lodge Mergers and Consolidations. This to my surprise was met with a great deal of success. To date there are approximately 10 to 15 Lodges in the state of discussing the need and the possibility of merging. There have been four Lodges that have already merged.

What we fail to recognize is that in life all things will come to an end. We have used the analogy of a Great Oak Tree that stood tall on the property of our Masonic Home. One day a large limb broke off and fell to the ground, upon inspection we found the core of the tree to be dead and nothing to hold the weight of the limbs on the tree except the shell. After several meetings, phone calls, and "horse beatings" on how to save the tree we called in an Arborist, after he inspected the tree he informed us it had reached the end of its life and needed to come down. Many of our Lodges have had the core die with nothing but the shell left. Through no fault of the tree or the Lodge, the time has come; all we have is choice: do nothing and let it fall around us or join forces and strengthen the foundation and the core from within. The choice is ours.

This is not the end but the beginning of our Fraternity, to strengthen it for the economic and declining times we are going through. I have stated that today more than any other time, our country needs the moral lessons and basic tenants that our Fraternity hold so dear to our hearts. We need to stand strong and we need to be visible to all who come to us for the light that takes away the darkness.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at our Grand Lodge Session with Most Worshipful Jim Ford in May.

Fraternally,
R.: W.: Stanley L. Hudson
Senior Grand Warden

A Message From The South

My Brothers,

Look back on this first year as your humble servant, and wonder where did it go? We have traveled the State, country, and even to Vancouver for the GOMCA. I have met a lot of very interesting, informative, and wonderful Masons throughout our travels. I have you, the Craft of Florida, to thank for this opportunity and I look forward to continued efforts on your behalf.

As we reach the new Masonic Year, I look to you, the Craft, for continued support. Your thoughts and concerns have been heard, conversed about, and changes are coming together. Re-Zoning and Re-Districting continue to be topics of great importance to our Fraternity. Keeping our Grand Lodge Budget as well as our Masonic Home Budget within our means, while also looking to our future needs is of great importance to us all. We need you, the Craft, to assist in these efforts. We, your Grand Lodge Officers, will continue to discuss these efforts at all of our visits and ask for your input. The future of your Fraternity is our main goal.

Wendy John, the Officer Manger, we have a well-oiled machine that never stops improving; always striving for excellence.

After the Grand Lodge Session I will be traveling to all the Districts to assist and train the Lodge Officers and Members on how to sign up on the new Membership Program. I hope to see you there.

Our Membership in 1981 was 83,158; decreased to 71,630 in 1991; and to 53,381 in 2004. The total loss for 2014 was 1,825 leaving us with a total Membership of 41,134. It is not losses to the Grim Reaper; it is losses due to non-payment of dues that contributes to these decreases in losses. We cannot control the Grim Reaper but we can help our Lodges by assisting the Secretary in contacting the Brothers suspended or about to be suspended. We certainly like to invite you to visit us here at the Grand Lodge Office; we have the finest dedicated staff all willing to go far beyond the normal requirements to be of service to the Lodges and the Membership. Under the direction of M.: W.: Richard E. Lynn, P.G.M., Grand Secretary

M.: W.: Richard E. Lynn, P.G.M., Grand Secretary

A Message From The Grand Secretary

It is hard to believe that February 2015 marked my 8th year serving as your Grand Secretary. Thank you for this opportunity to be of service to the Craft. Each day proposes a new challenge and experience. I enjoy traveling and renewing friendships and meeting many Brothers for the first time.

I am excited to inform you that during the Grand Lodge Session on May 24 through 27, 2015, many of you will have the opportunity to review the new Membership System. This past year we have had three Secretaries and Treasurer Seminars and the attendees had the opportunity to see a demonstration. The responses were very encouraging. It is predicted this system will not only assist the Secretaries in the day to day duties it will help improve the service to the Membership and reduce the number of Members being dropped for non-payment of dues. A complete overhaul of the Grand Lodge computer network servers has been completed. This will enable the staff to better serve you, the Membership, and protect our valuable data.

Speaking of the staff at the Grand Lodge Office; we have the finest dedicated staff all willing to go far beyond the normal requirements to be of service to the Lodges and the Membership. Under the direction of M.: W.: Richard E. Lynn, P.G.M., Grand Secretary

M.: W.: Richard E. Lynn, P.G.M., Grand Secretary

A Message From The Grand Treasurer

Brothers,

It seems only yesterday that we began a new Grand Lodge year with M.: W.: Jim Ford and now it is the beginning of another. A time of new Officers, new programs, and new goals. M.: W.: Ford had a very successful year with many goals met, and one of the most visible ones is the new wheelchair van at the Masonic Home. The old van had over two hundred thousand miles on it and the new one is a much more comfortable, reliable, and safer means of transporting the Residents to their many appointments. The Craft truly stepped up with their donations to make a dream come true.

One of the great programs we have in the Grand Jurisdiction of Florida is the Masonic License Tag. Not all states have a Masonic Tag but ours is available at your local tag agency for your purchase. What a great way to show your Masonic Pride as you drive each day both in your local area and out of town trips. There is a certain level of sales necessary for us to maintain our tag and if we fall below that level, there is a chance we could lose the Masonic Tag altogether. I would urge you, if you do not have one on your vehicle, please give careful consideration on purchasing one in the near future. It not only identifies you as a Mason, shows that you are proud to be a Mason, and helps our Masonic Home as well.

We would certainly like to invite you to visit us here at the Grand Lodge Office One Day Class will be on July 25th and in the af- termino prior to the District Meeting we will be having the picture hang- ing of M.: W.: Jim Ford in the museum. This would be a great time for you to visit, tour the museum, witness the picture hanging ceremony and then attend the District 11 and 12 District Meeting.

We are looking forward to a great year with our new Grand Master and seeing many of you in our travels. May God richly bless you, your family and your Lodge, and may he continue to bless our great Country.

Fraternally,
M.: W.: Elmer Coffman, P.G.M.
Grand Treasurer

M.: W.: Elmer Coffman, P.G.M., Grand Treasurer

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Zanghi Grotto Presents Appreciation Certificates

By Brother Ed Slavonic, Publicity and Public Relations 16th District

Zanghi’s Grotto’s Monarch Al Woodstock presents certificates of appreciation to R.W.: Steven Boettig, Deputy Grand Master; R.W.: Sam Guarnen, DDGM; R.W.: Tommy Tarlton, PDDGM; and R.W.: Harry Rauschel, PDDGM, at their November 5th, 2014 Meeting in appreciation for their assistance during Daytona’s Bike week and Easterseals in 2014, for “shaking the cans” to raise money for the Grotto’s Dental Care for Special Needs Kids, the Grotto’s Flagship Charity.

Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 Brings Holiday Cheer

By Howard W. Knapp PM, PDL, PDDGM

gulf Beach Lodge No. 291, located in Madeira Beach, took part in the Salvation Army Angel Tree program at Tyrome Mall. The Angel Tree Program is designed to get holiday gifts to needy children in the community. Over twenty Members of Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 took turns to man the Angel Tree Booth at the Mall on December 13th. It was a very moving experience for the Masters to see how the Community comes together to bring joy to the hearts of children this time of year. Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge is appreciative of the Salvation Army for allowing them to take part in this worthy program.

Englewood Lodge No. 360 - Awards and Presentations for 2014

Englewood Masonic Lodge No. 360, located in Englewood, presented on Tuesday, December 2, 2014, awards for outstanding service and dedication to the Lodge and Freemasonry. Recipients pictured are: (L to R) W. Jerry Walde for his Dedication and Service for 2013 and 2014; Lodge Officer Ron McNeil for his Dedication and Excellent Service for over 45 Years; W. Ed Behringer for his Dedication and Service As Officer and Treasurer; Lodge Officer Mike Nickles for his Dedication and Excellent Service as Secretary; Lodge Officer Ron McNeil for his Dedication, Talent and Service as Musician and Organist for our Lodge and various other Lodges for several years and W. Ian Fraser for his Dedication, Guidance and Prayers, as Chaplain!

Florida Sheriff’s Association Recognizes Ashlar Lodge

Ashlar Lodge No. 98, Free and Accepted Masons, in St. Augustine, FL, was recently made an Honorary Member of the Florida Sheriff’s Association in recognition of its continuing support of Florida Youth Ranches. The presentation was made by South Ranches Director at Madeira Beach Fundamen- tal Officer Debbie Girard, assisted by Commander Art May, Director of the Law Enforcement section of the St. Johns County Sheriff’s Office. The presentation was made during a Stated Communication at the Lodge on October 18th.

The plaque was presented to Garret Wolfe, Worshipful Master of Ashlar Lodge. “Ashlar Lodge is committed to continue support of such an outstanding organization. I would also like to thank St. Johns County Sheriff’s David Sholar and the Florida Sheriff’s Youth Ranches for this recognition.” Wolfe stated.

Florida Sheriff’s Youth Ranches’ mission is to prevent delinquency and develop strong, law-abiding, resilient, and productive citizens who will make a positive contribution to our communities for years to come.

They accomplish this mission by providing residential opportunities for children deemed “at risk.”

L to R: Chris Cannan, Art May; Bob Gagnon, Garret Wolfe, David Piewiec, and Debbie Girard

Past Master Or Put Out To Pasture

I was December 1982 when “the night” finally arrived. I had served my year in the East with enthusiasm, dedicated to bringing my Lodge and my Fraternity back to the basics that had once made it great. The words, “We do not need more men in Masonry, but more Masonry in men,” were not taken lightly, but rather directed my course of action throughout my year. I was now a Past Master and filled ill-fated shoes in the Past Master Office.

Like most Past Masters, there were the prerequisite feelings that accompanied the move out of the chair. Did I do a good job? Did I make a difference?

Where do I go from here? Almost any Past Master will tell you that there is a great sense of relief when your year is completed, and the Jewel and Apron is passed to the new Worshipful Brother who assumes the chair you have kept warm for him over the last twelve months. However, in reality, for the vast majority of us, there is a great sense of regret. We were just becoming proficient at our jobs when it became time to move on. “Past Master or Put Out To Pasture?”

After receiving my Past Master’s Apron from my Lodge, I realized that the Past Master’s Apron alone, did not make me a Past Master, and if the question is to be asked, “Past Master or Put Out To Pasture?” then it is a question that can only be answered by the man who are now Past Masters. For the simple point of fact is that the choice is entirely up to us. We can, like many that have passed the office of Worshipful Master, drift silently into the crowd and not attend Lodge again. Sadly, this is true in many of our Masonic Lodges. We can, as many Past Masters become sideliners and criticize those who follow behind us for not doing things right. Sadly, this too, is a growing phenomenon in many of our Lodges. As for me, I have opted for another option here in the “Past Master’s Pasture.”

I see the past as a green valley full of opportunities. A place where I can graze and eat within all the rich opportunities afforded to my Fellow Past Masters; a place where we can learn from those coming up behind us and from those who have gone on before us. The choice is ours to graze or to graze or to graze or to graze. I have chosen to graze until the day when I can graze no longer. It is my hope that many of you Past Masters will join me in this fertile and plentiful pasture, where we can with gen- tleness and experience, offer ourselves to our Lodge in whatever capacity we may be serviceable to it. Whom I was young in the craft all the Past Masters seemed to be very old, very important and very respectable. Now that I am one myself and I look around, they all seem very young, very ordinary, and very approachable.

Neither a Mason nor a Worshipful Master should be judged solely by the results of his labors. Obviously, Junior Warden with his whole heart and all his strength, yet not be entirely successful in compan- ion with one to whom certain things came easily. Masonry teaches us to try to make an effort, and the amount of that effort would be the gauge by which to determine the result.

To all the Past Masters, I wish you well, and honor the Grand Architect of the Universe always have you in His keeping. I bring you back again to your Lodge and your Brethren in safety, health, and happiness.

Ashlar Lodge No. 98 - 2015 Installation of Officers

Ashlar Lodge No. 98, Free and Accepted Masons located in St. Augustine, FL, installed officers for the 2015 Masonic Year on Saturday, December 27, 2014, at the Lodge. Traditionally, Freemasons set aside December 27th to honor St. John the Evangelist, one of the two Patron Saints of the Fraternity.

Officers installed during the ceremony included: W. Christopher Cannan, Worshipful Master; Bro. James Bailey, Senior Warden; Bro. Oscar Patterson, Junior Warden; Bro. Robert Gagnon, Treasurer; Bro. David Piewiec, Secretary; Bro. James Davis, Chaplain; Bro. Fred H. Bozard IV, Senior Deacon; Bro. Matthew Grovenes, Junior Deacon; Bro. Kenneth Schaffner, Senior Steward; Bro. Stephen Homan, Junior Steward; Bro. Ron DeRoco, Tyler; Bro. Ted Cassford, Musician; and Bro. Robert Wilson, Marshall.

Ashlar Lodge No. 98 was Chartered on January 1, 1888, by The Grand Lodge of Florida, but, Freemasonry in East Florida can be traced back to the Establishment of a Military Lodge under the Grand Lodge of England in 1762. Even the “Monument de la Constitution 1812” on the Plaza in St. Augustine indicates the Fraternity’s influence in St. Augustine with a Masonic symbol clearly visible on the monument’s plaque.
Notes From The Editor

By Bro. Ken Hart

Making Good Men Better

For a departed Brother of Masonic Lodge

Without any hesitation.

I slowly entered the funeral home, Rather solemnly, I confess. I thought I would be greeted by many Of his Masonic Brothers, no less

Only three of his Lodge Brother's benefit packages were present. While the family sat alone. Where is all his Brotherly Love? His Brothers should have shown

Not only was I embarrassed, For I could feel the family's pain. Of not seeing their loved ones Brothers, As their Masonic Oil of Ointment. The Masonic oaths we took on bended knee. Should mean much more than this.

Have we lost sight of what they mean? My Brothers, something surely is amiss.

We certainly have an obligation, To make time to say Good-bye. Eternity is a long, long time And not just a few days.

Although many of your Masonic Brothers were there, To say their last farewell, I am here to say my last Good-bye, Alas, my Brother, sleep well!

M aking good men better is to extract the essence of the Masonic experience. The ritual and ceremony serve to convey and teach certain moral lessons and elevate the individuals to a position higher than themselves. The lessons are things you know you already heard or have learned in a text, and Brotherly love and charity must be tested and tried, but more often than not, we can bring them back to intelligence, strength, and beauty. As the Bible states, "Judge not, lest ye be judged." Truly, this is a saying, no less true today than when first said. As the old Greek said, "Know thy self," because if we do not know ourselves, we cannot develop ourselves to be ourselves under the spell of all the influences God is using for the making of man, among which the spirit of Masonry is one of the gentlest, wisest and most benign. We are so human, we wish to be treated with compassion. The Supreme Architect of the Universe wants to welcome them back with joy. They have done themselves a far deeper injury than they can do anyone else. With empathy, they can heal, let our hearts beat in harmony with all the powers the Supreme Architect of the Universe is using for their recovery. “There remain Faith, Hope, and Charity; but the greatest of these, is Charity.”

As Master Masons, we have learned the Five Points of Fellowship, and these lessons should be foremost in our minds. This is how we, as Masons, "Make Good Men Better" SKB

Florida Educational Foundation, Inc.

Congratulations to all scholarship recipients!

On August 2, 2014, the Board of Directors of Florida Educational Foundation, Inc., awarded two $100,000 scholarships. The recipients were: McLean Haughey and Amanda Guthrie.

Since only two applications were received, the Board of Directors of Florida Educational Foundation, Inc., decided to accept applications for half-year scholarships. On December 5th, the Bank of Directors of FEF awarded scholarships of $500.00 each to: Morgan Antoine Crimi, Harrison Sherwin, Vesty Velasquez, Marybeth Lambert and Thomas Wilson.

Florida Educational Foundation, Inc. is a college scholarship program open to those who must be Members, or Senior Members of Florida DeMolay, Florida Job's Daughters, Florida Rainbow Girls or the son, daughter, grandson or granddaughter of a Florida Master Mason.

For further information about the scholarships, please contact: Russell B. Glenandin, President (rfglenandin@yahoo.com) Jerome M. Meguinis, Secretary (jmmolin@aol.com)

N ot only was I embarrassed, For I could feel the family's pain.
What Makes Us Different?

We owe our being to those who came before us. We are here because they were here, and, of the way, their lives unfolded. Imagine, if you will, the countless chance happenings, the many coincidences and accidents, all of which had to come about in the precise way they did, in order to result in our being here, and, being what we are.

Each of us attends our Lodge Meetings because we want to. We attend because we firmly believe beyond any doubt, that due to our efforts, we are making this world a better place. But what makes us as Masons, different from Members of other Fraternal Organizations and for that matter, that the Masonic community community to us as, “The Greatest Fraternity in the World!” This is quite a powerful statement!

I believe we are different as Masons because the instict to become a Mason was born in us. I don’t believe the subtle hints that may have been directed to us at one time or another by a Mason to a non-Mason has anything to do with our becoming a Member. Sooner, or later, we would have joined because inwardly, the calling was already there, and would eventually emerge when the time was right.

However strange this reasoning may seem, it’s investigate further. Each man who becomes a Member of our Grand Fraternity is someone very special; someone who has a certain quality of character distinguishing him from others. These qualities do not imply we are better than others but the burning desire within us to help our fellow human burns at a much higher degree of intensity than most. It is not a superficial desire, as it is one deep.

No man kneels at our Altar of Obligation and arises the same man. The oaths we have taken at that Altar of Obligation are deeply imbedded in our minds and we practice the tenets of our order toward all mankind, well after the Master has closed his Lodge, while we are constantly reminded of the, “Point within a Circle.” Each one of us, as Masons, practice our tenets, as the younger generations refer to, as “twenty-four seven.”

We are men of great convictions and we are not, swayed easily. We are extremely patriotic and have within our ranks many true American heroes. We consider all men as one and equal and look down upon no one but I have learned that a man has the right to look down on others, only when he is helping them up. We extend our hands if the fallen and the torn breadden as a token of our brotherly love, and, under no circumstance does any sound of distress reach our ears in vain, or any outstretched hand seeks our aid without response. Each of us has been a very strong connection to Deity and our cable-tow is that connection. I firmly believe that the Masonic Fraternity, men differing in language, in modes of thought, in dress and in habits of life, are able to meet around a common altar, share a common hope, and seek a common ideal.

A mental image that does not seem to appear in other Fraternal Organizations. We have been taught in our beloved order, the relative importance of self-analysis to the duties of life. Each day or night, when we review our actions, behavior and thoughts, and attempt to see how they coincide with the duties of our Fraternity as defined by our past Masters and Grand Masters, we find we are measuring up to the standards outlined by the Craft, we improve ourselves as better men and better Masons.

I doubt whether other Fraternal Organizations leave this impression upon their Members. Our ancient Brotherhood is founded upon the principles of love, hope, and charity. We freely give of our time, our money, our energy, and our bodies. We do not look upon them as a mere hobby, but as a legitimate occupation. We do not derive our product from the product of the United States on a factory basis, but from the product of the human heart and mind.

By Rev. Bro. Melville H Herron

O n September 25th, 2014, I received information that my son Melville Dwayne Herron, accompanied by his wife Ashley, was in an accident in the Dominican Republic. They were in a Taxi travelling from the Airport to the hotel when the taxi was hit head-on by another vehicle. His wife died on the scene and my son was seriously injured and needed immediate blood transfusions and repair of multiple fractures.

He needed approximately 8 units of rare “O” Negative blood of which only two units were available in the Hospital. I emailed to the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons of the State of New York, Honorable William J. Thomas, who in turn communicated the information to The Grand Lodge of The Dominican Republic. A short time thereafter, I received a copy of the latest information from The Grand Lodge of The Dominican Republic. Within one hour thereafter, I received a copy of an email from The Grand Lodge of the Dominican Republic, stating: “A Member of The Grand Lodge of the Dominican Republic, along with another Brother, were injured and needed immediate medical assistance. They were in a Taxi travelling from Santo Domingo, to visit Dwayne, approximately 120 miles away. Soon thereafter, it would appear that a Clarion call was made from The Grand Lodge of the Dominican Republic to Brother Masons for blood, and the Medical Facility was able to do the necessary surgery needed to preserve my son Dwanye. Within a few days, Dwanye was airlifted to the nearest Trauma Center in the United States on October 3rd 2014 and continues to improve.

This brings another incident to mind. A few years ago, a Brother’s Wife went to her native country for a short vacation. She was there, thieves broke in her room and stole cash and important documents, including her Passport. She could not leave the country without those documents. She tried everything on her own to no avail. Her husband contacted The Grand Lodge of New York, who in turn contacted The Grand Lodge of California, and, finally, within days, his wife was on her way home to the United States. Do not underestimate the influence of the greatest Fraternity that was ever conceived by the imagination of man.

Let me make as a clear as possible. Masonry has no limits when it comes to good works towards humanity.

Somewhere in history, it is rightly and wisely written: Although but one man among many can be insignificant or that your share in this great cooperatives. Your personal contact with others may be circumscribed by the limit of the circle within which your daily life is lived; but your influence passing through and from those whom that circle may surround, will reach further than you can conceive.

Masonry bids you do your best in that which lies nearest to you, to see in your neighbor what you desire your neighbor should see in you, to remember that there is no term more frequently used by The Grand Lodge of Florida F& A M , to present Certificates of Membership of Masons to any Masonic group. W e are Members of what Masonic Fraternity? Because you are a Member, and our Members are the GREATEST men in the world! -S. K. B 2004

L-R David Neillman, Jennifer Vaughan, Tom Sorenson

The ADOPT-A-TEACHER Project Was a Success

H elping a teacher in one of our public schools through the ADOPT-A-TEACHER activity with either monetary or physical assistance is an important activity for Masons. On January 20, 2015, Past Masters Dwanye Davis and Roy Weiland met with Worshipful Master John McKibben of Pine Hill Lodge No. 4, Otis Tetenio, Lodge Treasurer, Jefferson Davis, Lodge Chaplain, John McKibben, Last year’s Worshipful Master and present Marshall, Bob Haunes, Senior Warden, and Worshipful Master Tom Sorensen met with Jennifer Vaughan, Principal of Lakeview Elementary School. Brothers David and Tom presented a donation from Lawtey Lodge No. 189 for the Adopt-A-Teacher Project. Ms. Vaughan stated the money will be spent wisely and for the students’ activities, and thanked us for the donation.

Four Brothers Receive Certificates of Membership


Congratulations and Welcome to our Fraternity.
By D2 Public Relations / Publicity / W. Lewis Whidden

On Saturday, 10th of January, Gulf Breeze Lodge No. 347 brought 2 FC’s (James McA mister and Joshua Pasture) to Century Lodge No. 213 for their MM Degree. This, however, was not a usual Degree, this was to allow a Military Member to receive all 3 Degrees (with dispensation in one day before he deployed). What started out to be a simple TR Degree turned out, with the generosity of Century Lodge No. 213, to be a block party! It was fantastic!!

We started at Century Lodge No. 213 (at 0630) with a great breakfast consisting of bacon, sausage and scrambled eggs. Then on to the EA Degree which Gulf Breeze Lodge helped with 5 seats (SW, SD, JD, SS, JS) and the charge, then a light snack and on to the FC Degree which Gulf Breeze Lodge supplied (SW, SS, J3, SD), and the charge, and a beautiful lecture which was delivered by W. - W. - Tommy Lucray sitting in the East for the first half. Bruce Fornter for the second.

R. - W. - W. Haskell gave a very inspiring lecture (Brothers it was one to remember) and Gulf Breeze Lodge gave the charge. This day will not be soon forgotten.

Breeze Lodge gave the charge. This day will not be soon forgotten. Half and R

Every Lodge Has Stories To Tell... To Yours!!

By W. - W. - George Waas

The Florida Mason contains many articles of interest regarding activities of our Brothers and Lodges, but unless the activities or events contained in those articles reach the general public, we are only communicating to ourselves. It would be far more beneficial if non-Masons learned of the important and rewarding things we do.

This is where public relations and publicity come in. Every Lodge has stories to tell; why not tell the public yours? Virtually every newspaper devotes a page or section at least periodically on community activities and events, recognizing people and groups that have achieved recognition, or given something back to the community, or reached a milestone...the last goes on and on.

How much would it take for a Mason who observes or participates in such an event or activity to write a brief article for his local newspaper? Think of the potential readership and the very real possibility of generating interest that might well lead to a new petition (or more) being submitted to your Lodge.

All it takes is to think publicity and relations, and a little effort to put the event in writing and submit it to your local newspaper. Chances are, if it’s worth submitting to Mason, it’s also worth submitting it to your local newspaper. And if this is done once, it will be done again and again once you realize that the public is interested in what Masons do. The more people that read about us, the greater the interest will be in our Fraternity. And this can easily lead to growing our Membership.

Lodge Pit Masters

Englewood Lodge Pit Masters

It’s 10:30 am on a Sunday morning at Englewood Lodge No. 360. It happens twice a month now. The 2nd and the 4th Sundays of each month (the tourist season for sure) and hopefully year around. The sign is posted at the road and is in the BBQ pit. The Senior Steward, Bill Boyer left and the Junior Warden Dan Vasitke right turn a rack of chicken parts. Master BBQ’er, Russell Powers (background) supervises. The balance of the crew not shown is: Gene Jeffers, making beans in the Lodge kitchen; Al King, making caring and boxing for the to-go orders, Stony Stoncipher, returning from an urgent errand; John Stone, Senior Deacon making a telephone call. Last, but perhaps most important, is the Junior Wardens wife Nancy who is overseeing and tending other kitchen activities. If you in the neighborhood, stop in and see us.

The Deed Of Hermon

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron’s, that went down to the skirts of his garments; as the dew of Hermon, and the Mountains of Zion. Here we have two wonderful illustrations of unity among brethren. It is like the ointment descending from the head of the high priest to the skirts of his garments and it is like the dew descending in refreshing power, from Hermon’s stony top. It is one thing to talk about unity, and another thing altogether to dwell in it. We may profess to hold “the unity of the body,” and “the unity of the mind,” the most precious and glorious truths, and all the while be really full of selfish pride, party spirit, and sectarian feeling, all of which are entirely destructive of spiritual life, and will become a snare and stumbling block. Hurry, brethren, for this is the time and place of feeling that is great, and should be the norm in our lives. How good and how pleasant is it when we can dwell in unity. It is good for our homes, it is good for our churches and it is constant delight to those who do live in unity. The pleasantness of this is similar to the holy anointing oil. It is not just something all placer.

The dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion. Hermon was a mountain, which flourished because of the holy anointing oil borne upon those peaks. The place. The mountains of Zion tended to be barren and lifeless place fruitful. This picture displays one that unity makes the place. The mountains of Zion tended to be barren and lifeless place fruitful. This picture displays one that unity makes the

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Brother Max E. Noshers 50 Years a Mason

In Harbor Masonic Lodge No. 686 located in Highland Indiana, Brother Max E. Noshers became a Mason. He was: Initiated an Entered Apprentice October 1964, Passed to Fellow Craft November of 1964 and Raised to a Master Mason in January 1965.

In January 2015 Brother Max was awarded his 50-year pin. Shown in this photo are: W. - W. - Denis Doome, Worshipful Master; Max E. Noshers, and W. - M. - Michael Tirpack, Master of the Lodge.

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First Lady’s Project Completed

Tracey Williams committed herself to fulfilling her mother’s dream during her father’s year as Grand Master. On March 19, 2015, a program was held to officially dedicate this beautiful vehicle in memory of Joy Ford. During M.W. Ford and Tracey’s travels, they were presented with generous gifts which helped make this possible. This 2015 Ford Transit Diesel Van will transport Residents daily including those who utilize a wheelchair. What an amazing accomplishment! Many thanks to all who made this possible with special recognition to Lawrence and Marcia Kunken for their very generous contribution.
Welcome

From Our Administrator

A s we approach the close of the 2014-2015 Masonic Year, we once again reflect upon how fortunate we are to have the honor and privilege of serving the Masonic Home of Florida. We realize this may sound repetitive, but there really is no other place like it! Our Community is the culmination of many years of dedicated, generous and talented people coming together to fulfill the mission established almost 100 years ago! This newsletter is intended to share the many wonderful activities in the past six months. Please know it is impossible to fully describe the efforts of so many which go on every day.

Most Worshipful Grand Master James W. Ford and his daughter, Tracey Williams began the year with a goal of receiving gifts to help replace the 14 year old wheelchair van with over 200,000 miles. Well, due to your generosity, the Residents are now being transported in a brand new 2015 Ford Transit 250 Van with customized wheelchair lift and many other special features. This ensures that Residents receive the safest ride and promotes our Home in the very best way possible! Tracey's project also allowed for additional safety and mobility features to be added to the other two vehicles which transport Residents.

The Masonic Home Team would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to our Grand Lodge Officers, Board of Trustees and Members throughout Florida for providing the expertise, commitment, support and vision to continually make our care and services available to the deserving individuals we serve.

With Gratitude,
Lisa Tisotson, Administrator

Thank You Districts 28 & 29

The Members and Families of Districts 28 & 29 and Lehigh Acres Lodge No. 344 are spoiling the Residents of the Masonic Home and they love it! They delivered over 100 gorgeous poinsettias during the holidays and were back again in April to deliver beautiful Easter baskets to each and every Resident. We really appreciate all they do!

Beautiful New Gazebo Completed

Due to the outstanding generosity of the Masonic Family throughout Florida, a wonderful new gazebo and patio was made possible for the Residents to enjoy. Past First Daughter Betty Griffith designated the funds remaining following the amazing chapel renovation last year to build the gazebo structure. Then First Daughter Tracey Williams designated funds remaining after the purchase of the new wheelchair van from her project to purchase the gazebo furniture. This is an excellent example of how working together can make the lives of those we serve better and better!

Mission Accomplished By 13th Masonic District Association

The eight Lodges within the 13th Masonic District decided to issue a challenge to see which Lodge could collect the most items for Corky’s Cupboard. Well, based on this picture, they met their objective! For those who may not be familiar, Corky’s Cupboard is a county store stocked with various toiletry/sundry items which are offered free to the Residents of the Masonic Home. This just goes to show that some good, fun competition can also help many others! Thank you 13th District and by the way, which Lodge won the competition? Looks like we all won.

Cape Coral No. 367 Performs Service Project at Home

Cape Coral Masonic Lodge visited the Masonic Home of Florida on Saturday, March 14th to perform a service project. The group mulched the gardens at the parking lot entrance, and also spent much time pressure washing the parking lot and sections of the walkways near the entrance to the building. The Brothers in attendance (and the ladies that attended as well) would like to thank the Masonic Home for permitting us to perform this project. They would also like to thank the Resident Tour Guides that offered the group a tour of the facilities. All of the Brothers in attendance had never been to the Masonic Home before and really enjoyed the experience. They look forward to performing a future service project at the Masonic Home, and would like to encourage other Brothers, and Lodges to give some of their time as well.

Gift Made In Memory of Alfred L. Talley From His Family

The Masonic Home of Florida had the honor and pleasure of having Alfred L. Talley reside here for several years. After his passing, his daughter Susan T. Cornwell, a daily resident, dedicated his memory. Susan wanted to help beautify a particular hallway which her father traveled each day to various activities. Thanks to her gift, we were able to paint, order new handrails, improve lighting, purchase artwork, etc. to make this area more enjoyable and interesting to all. What a wonderful way to honor this amazing man!

An Easter Celebration With The 25th Masonic District

Every year, the wonderful men and women of the 25th Masonic District come spend the day with the Residents to celebrate the Easter holiday. They bring along their smiles, hugs and all kinds of treats to enjoy! Thanks to all who make this a very special event.

Next Issue Deadline: The Florida Mason & Masonic Lifestyles

Vol. 8, Issue 2

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Print Date December 1, 2015

Grand Lodge of Florida

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Grand Lodge Officers 2014 - 2015

GRAND MASTER
M. W.: James W. Ford
(Valrico)

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
R. W.: Steven P. Boring
(DeLand)

SENIOR GRAND WARDEN
R. W.: Stanley L. Hudson
(Port St. Lucie)

JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN
R. W.: Richard G. Hoover
(St. Petersburg)

GRAND TREASURER
M. W.: Elmer G. Coffman, P.G.M.
(Orange Park)

GRAND SECRETARY
M. W.: Richard E. Lynn, P.G.M.
(Jacksonville)

All submissions for future issues of The Masonic Lifestyles should be sent to Lisa Tisotson, Toll Free at 866-866-6749 or E-Mail: masonich@aol.com

Summer 2015
Masonic Lifestyles
The Grand Lodge of Florida Ladies throw another great party for the Residents

Districts 20 & 21 hosted an annual holiday party for the Staff, their Children & Grandchildren. Thanks to the Masonic Youth for volunteering!

Anderson-McQueen Family entertains the Residents

The 33rd Masonic District holds another outstanding holiday party for the Residents

Masonic Home Service Guild volunteered their time and hosted a wonderful holiday tea

DDGM of the 32nd District, Bill Bates Sr. and son Bill Jr., visit with Resident Lois Ocharski, sponsored by Englewood Lodge No. 360

Allendale United Methodist Church came to entertain the Residents

"Holiday Happenings"
Life Care Plan

This traditional plan is available to any Master Mason who becomes a Member of a Florida Lodge prior to the age of 70. He must be a Member in good standing of a Florida Lodge for at least ten years and continually for the last three. The wife or widow of a Master Mason is eligible for residency based on his Membership. Contact your Lodge or the Masonic Home for an application. Upon completion, the application is signed by the Worshipful Master and Secretary. It is then presented to the District Deputy Grand Master for review. The application is then forwarded to the Admissions Committee, Board of Trustees, and Grand Master for final approval. This process takes approximately 30-60 days. Dual Members are also eligible.

Under the Life Care Plan, assets owned by the Resident such as property, bank accounts, stocks, social security, pensions, etc., are deposited with the Masonic Home. These assets are then converted to cash to establish a Resident Maintenance Account. Each month, this account is debited to cover the cost of care. Residents retain 10% of any liquid assets, initially and subsequently, in excess of $10,000 for personal use. When assets are exhausted, the Masonic Home continues to provide care throughout the lifetime of the Resident regardless of his/her ability to pay.

Pay As You Go (Private Pay)**

In May of 2005, The Grand Lodge of Florida approved Private Pay admissions for Florida and non-Florida Masons. This plan provides an opportunity for Florida and non-Florida Master Masons and their wives, widows and mothers to retain control of their assets while enjoying all the Masonic Home has to offer. Residents pay a three month deposit and $3,650* monthly for Assisted Living and $6,083* monthly for Skilled Nursing care. Most fees and services are included except medication. For couples entering the Masonic Home, the first person pays this monthly fee and the second person fee is $1,800* monthly. Applicants for Pay As You Go should get in touch with the Masonic Home directly to begin the admission process which can take as little as one week for approval.

**Please Note that effective June 2012, Women who are qualified Members of the Order of the Eastern Star are now eligible to apply for the “Pay As You Go” Plan.

*Rates subject to change.
The Englew ood Masonic Lodge No. 360 adopted Ms. Kathy Wylie and her Kinder class at Vineland Elementary School.

By R.W. Harry Boyette

Ferry Pass Lodge No. 348 and Pensacola Lodge No. 42 – Lodge Mergers

Ferry Pass Lodge No. 348, had their first reading for a merge with Pensacola Lodge No. 42. A Meeting was called with both Lodges in attendance. There were a lot of ideas and suggestions brought forth, the biggest was whether to merge or consolidate. There was a lot of discussion as to which was the easiest and at the end of the night the agreement was to pursue a merger.

With The Grand Lodge taking of possible combining of Districts, at meetinging Lodges to unite to become stronger, I feel this helped drive this endeavor. Senior Grand Warden, R.W. Stan Hudson is really driving this and is holding Town Hall Meetings all over the State.

My Brothers this is an opportunity many Lodges should take. If finances, Membership or just having a good fellowship, then your Lodge is a good candidate to go to one. We encourage everyone to hear what he has to say. He is doing it for you and Masonry! He will be in Pensacola on the 28th of March and I expect a good turnout.

My congratulations to the newly Elected and Appointe Officers of Ferry Pass No. 348 and happiness in their new home at Pensacola No. 42.

Another highlight was watching a son replacing his father as Worshipful Master. R.W. Melvin Gayland proudly passed the gavel to his son Brother Jason Gayland. There were many family members who witnessed this as well as one who sat with the West. A true family affair. It is good to know there is sadness at soon closing this Chapter, but I know there will be many doors opening for these Masons.

Englew ood Lodge Adopts-A-Teacher

 Earlier this year the MASONS in Englew ood Lodge announced they had adopted a Kinder class and a teacher at the Vineland Elementary School in Englew ood.

The Englew ood Masonic Lodge F&AM No. 360 adopted Kathy Wylie and her Kinder class at Vineland Elementary School. It was the first time a Charter Lodge visited Vineland. They met with Principal, Ms. Laura Blumer; Assistant Principal, Ms. Jacqui Barber; Class Assistant, Gaby Redmann, and the students.

Ms. Wylie was asked if she had any ideas that her students might contribute. She responded that, “she had never been asked that question before”. She promptly turned to her students and asked them for input. It took some time to evaluate and determine exactly what support was needed and what could be provided.

At the April 7th Lodge meeting Ms. Kathy Wylie, a number of student representatives, some siblings, and parents were invited to the Lodge for a presentation. After the pledge to the flag and a prayer the class members who were present as assembled behind the Sr. Deacon, who was holding the flag, led by Ms. Wylie. The Master of the Lodge presented a check for $800 given to Ms. Wylie to cover the major items of things they had requested.

The presentation concluded with ice cream for the guests and the Masonic meeting then proceeded.

Masons - Adopt a Teacher

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This effort is part of a state-wide-initiative promoted by The Grand Lodge of Florida.

The Masons asked Ms. Wylie for a wish list of things they needed for their class. Ms. Wylie and her students identified a few books of things they needed for their class. Ms. Wylie and her students identified a few books they needed for their class. They ended up with a few doing things.

Lighthouses / More Light

A lighthouse is a structure from which a light is projected at night, or which is used as a marker for ships sailing in coastal waters. Lighthouses are constructed as important points on a coastline, at entrances to harbors and estuaries, on headlands of lesser islands, or on headlands even in the water. Lighthouses help identify a ships location, warn ships of potential hazards, and notify them that land is near.

Lighthouses differ from smaller beacons in that a lighthouse includes living quarters for a lighthouse keeper. Today, however, most lighthouses do not require the presence of a lighthouse keeper. In some cases, automatic beacons are used instead.

Modern lighthouse beacons vary in power from about 10,000 candles to about 1 million candles depending on the prevailing wind conditions and the requirements of shipping traffic in a particular area. (The candle is the unit used to measure the amount of light that a source radiates in one hour per square inch of area.) Most lighthouses are equipped with a light that can have one of two hundredths of the brightness of a fifty- watt bulb.) Every lighthouse emits a distinctive series of flashes known as its characteristic. These flash sequences allow ships captains to time intervals between flashes so that they can identify a lighthouse, using a publication called the Light List. This publication assigns a number to each lighthouse, and describes its characteristics. Many lighthouses are equipped with fog horns to help guide ships sailing in foggy weather. These foghorns, which make their sound by quick repetition of a short blast, can be heard for distances up to 8 miles. Ship captains can determine their position by identifying distinctive combinations of long and short periods of darkness and light. Some lighthouses are equipped with radio beacons that transmit Morse code radio signals. These radio signals, which are distinguished by short (dot) and long (dash) combinations, have a range of up to 200 miles.

By day, lighthouses often serve as landmarks for ships seeking to identify their position along a coastline. Thus, lighthouses vary in shape, size, and color. Light houses can be square, round, conical, rectangu lar, and even octagonal. Some are painted with floating rings, spiral, or diamond patterns. Some have twin, and in one case, triple towers. Most lighthouses range in height from 33 feet to 206 feet. Lighthouses vary in iron, wood, stone, brick, reinforced concrete, iron, steel, or aluminum. They are designed to withstand local environmental conditions. For example, tall skeletal lighthouses located in the Caribbean offer less surface area to hurricane force winds and waves. Lighthouse designs often reflect architectural styles of the time the lighthouses were built.

In the 19th century, lighthouses, which are essentially fixed beacons, were stationed in coastal waters where lighthouses could not be built. A lighthouse displayed one or more flashes that made it an aid to navigation. At one time, or more, than 120 lighthouses dotted the coastal waters of the United States. By 1985, many that were equipped with an automated beacon and fog signal had replaced all U.S. lighthouses. These modern beacons are based on electronic beacons that are based on electronic beacons that can be programmed to emit light and sound signals in a variety of patterns. Some have tw in, and in one case, triple towers.

An automated beacon and fog signal will display one or more flashes that make it an aid to navigation. At one time, or more, than 120 lighthouses dotted the coastal waters of the United States. The first was built in 1716 in Boston. By 1900, nearly 1,000 lighthouses, both coastal and harbor types had been built in the United States. They may be as many as 3000 lighthouses existing in the world today, although estimates vary.

By day, lighthouses are used primarily, as backups for marine navigation, while many other lighthouses are no longer in operation. Some national governments have turned control of these aban doned structures over to local governments and nonprofit organizations.

In many countries, abandoned lighthouses have been turned into restaurants, inns, and research and educational centers.

Now, what does all this have to do with Masonry?

We have Members who cannot display a steady beam of light; just short intervals. We have others, who do just what needs to be done, but not a steady beam, or a flashing light, where there is more darkness than light; and we have those who shine constantly, or a fixed beam. We also have those who do just what needs to be done, but not a steady beam, or a flashing light, where there is more darkness than light; and we have those who shine constantly, or a fixed beam. We also have those who do just what needs to be done, but not a steady beam, or a flashing light, where there is more darkness than light; and we have those who shine constantly, or a fixed beam.
Let’s Have Some Fun And Productivity At Our Meetings

Worshipful Master Alex Carambas rapped the gavel to get everyone’s attention. Then the fun began. With the help of the District Deputy, District Committeeman, District Instructor and a wondrous SUPPER, a great time was had by all who attended Lodge that night for the District Deputes visit.

Twenty nine Masons and wives exchange conver sations jokes and laughter and made this night memorable. Who would have thought that a pair of RED socks could be such fun?

I am not sure which of the Grand Line Officers thought it up, but it has really taken off. Not only was the DDGM and District Instructor wearing them, but now, even many of the Committee members were also wearing them. Hey they match the tie! LOL (Gang out loud) Right Honorable Jon Davies gave a heartfelt talk to the Brothers concerning District Instructions. It is amazing how much of a turn around these meeting have had in the last few years. We are lucky that we have people who are thinking out of the box. By taking initiatives one to the different Lodges attendance has improved. One month it is in District 1 and the next in District 2 at a different Lodge each time. We, in District 1 and 2 work together, in almost every endeavor, to accomplish our goals. For example our committee members on their first round of visits give the program and what they are trying to achieve. On the second round they talk about what they have achieved or new ideas to make that program work better. One good idea that Worshipful Bob Denard brought up was to have Masonic Leadership training either in Lodge for education or better yet, at the end of supber before opening Lodge. We are using this approach now and our numbers are soaring.

The Grand Masters message, on the second go around, is being well received. Several Brothers have asked for a copy to use as education for our Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts.

Thank you Most Worshipful Jim Ford for such an inspiring message. As the Grand Master said “We need to have fun in our meetings”. So in that note Worshipful Bob Pilgrim said of the picture he took “I have the perfect place to hang it” “The guys in the picture are nervous about that.”

With Friendship and Brotherly Love Alex Carambas - Worshipful Master, Escambia Lodge No. 15

Fellow Craft Degree Held At Hurricane Lodge No. 401

The Lodges that participated included Clyde S. McLaren No. 395, Village Lodge No. 315, Hialeah Opa Locka Lodge No. 391, Olleta West Dade No. 145, and Hurricane Lodge No. 401. Other Brothers from District 35 were also there to show their support. It was an incredibly memorable night with more than 70 Brothers, from almost all the Lodges across our two Districts enjoying fellowshipping. Brotherly love and the strong bond of our Masonic Ritual. The Brothers that were passed last night all stated how special the night was for them with the number of Brothers that were there for their Ritual. We all gained a better understanding of the meaning of Brotherhood.

Fellow Craft Degree held at Hurricane Lodge No. 401. The Brothers from all of the five Lodges in the 34th Masonic District, worked together to perform the Fellow Craft Ritual. Each Lodge was represented in the Chairs and had Brothers being Passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft, as well. Fraternally, Paul Thompson, D.D.G.M of the 34th Masonic District. Parking Lot Traveling Masons

The 13th Masonic District Association provided drivers for the transportation service at the Clay County Fair April 2-11, 2015, at the Fair Grounds in Green Cove Springs, FL. More than 20 Brothers from the association drove the various vehicles carrying fair goers from the parking area to the fair ground and back. They worked from 10 am until 11 pm in 4-hour shifts.

The 13th District Association Banner was proudly displayed at the transportation center and each Brother wore a cap with the District Association’s logo and a safety vest with the Square and Compasses on the back. The event was coordinated by Worshipful Bill Autro, Past Master of Cabot Lodge and a Board Member for the Association.

Father & Son

Most Worshipful Elmer Coffman, PGM presented newly raised Brother Ron Hudson his Masonic Bible. Brother Ron Hudson is the son of Senior Grand Warden Stan Hudson.

Brother Norman Casey Receiving his 60-Year Masonic Certificate at Mount Ewell Lodge No. 151 in Baker Florida.

Helping Special Needs Children in Pinellas Park

By W.: Bruce Ward.

HISTORY:

In 1932, the Florida General Assembly created the “Florida Masonic Charities”—a non-profit 501c3 organization— for the sole purpose of helping “special needs children.” Its history is long and rich, and today its impact is widespread and far reaching.

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge, located in Madeira Beach recently recognized Brother William “Bill” Hunt for his 70 years of service to the Fraternity. Brother Hunt was born in 1918 and became a Mason at the end of WWII in 1945 when he joined National Lodge No. 12 in Washington D.C. Brother Hunt worked for the Federal government as a diplomatic liaison in Central America during the 1950’s and 60’s, mainly in the Dominican Republic and El Salvador. In 1978, after retirement, Brother Hunt moved to Florida and transferred his Membership to Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 and has been an active Member here since that time. On Thursday March 19th Brother Hunt, age 96, attended Lodge under his own volition, walked to the podium and was presented his 70 year certificate and pin by Worshipful Brother Carl Moore, sitting Master. Brother Hunt was met with a long and enthusiastic applause from the many Brothers in attendance.

Father and Son Installed As Worshipful Masters

History was made in the Eight Masonic Districts of Florida when a Father and Son were installed as the Worshipful Master of their respective Lodges in the same District.

Brother Zachary Cone was installed the Worshipful Master of Perry Lodge No. 123 on December 27, 2014. Following a covered dish supper, family and friends assembled in the Lodge Room. Here, R.: W.: Calv...
Florida’s Newest & Youngest Mason And Warrior

By Cesar A. Blanco, Secretary, Tampa Bay Lodge No. 252

On March 28th, 2015 at 11:00 a.m., Emilio Michael Santiago, who at the age of 18 years and 5 months, was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason by his father, Brother Michael Hartwick. Brother Emilio, who will be reporting to the United States Air Force on June 30th, to begin his duties as a U.S. Airman and later received his Certificate of Membership from Worshipful Master Timothy (Duke) Pierce, of Tampa Bay Lodge No. 252 in Safety Harbor, FL.

Also raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason that day, was Brother Aaron Michael Cardenas, a local attorney. The Members of the Tampa Bay Lodge No. 252 meet on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Masonic Lodge, located at 4th and Main Street in Safety Harbor. All Master Masons are welcomed.

Heroes of ‘76

It happened every Friday evening, almost without fail, when the sun resembled a golden bronze now. Eddie leaned back and pulled his military jacket off, dow n there in Florida. That’s too bad.

Eddie Rickenbacker lived many years against the raft... His full name: Eddie Rickenbacker. He was a Mason at the Masonic Home for a number of years. He was a Member of Englewood Lodge No. 360, a 33rd Degree Mason of the Scottish Rite; and an Arab Temple Shriner. George P. Williams was 91 years old when he died. He had been a Resident at the Masonic Home for a number of years. It continues to be run by the Service Guild, and is located inside the “Now & Then” Gift Shop. It is entirely sustained through kind donations of items, and cash to buy the items the Residents need most! “Thank you,” “Thank you.”

To the onlooker, rituals can look either very strange or very empty. They can seem altogether unimportant... Maybe even a lot nonsense. Old folks often do strange things, at least in the eyes of Boomers and Busters.

Sojourners, Inc. is an organization of Masons who are also present or past Commissioned Officers or Senior NCO’s of the U.S. Military Services. The Lodge also heard from John “Robbie” Stokes and Barry Collins, who do many patriotic talks and educational skits on our country’s history.

Let’s Have A Parade

Brothers of Amelia Lodge No. 47 participate in the 70th Annual Fernandina Beach Shrine Club Parade on March 25, 2015!

Heroes of ‘76 Building the Flag Program at Arlington Lodge No. 309

Arlington Lodge No. 309 of Jacksonville, Florida held its Americanism/Patriotism Day Celebration on February 28, 2015. The Heroes of ‘76 from Andrew Jackson Camp, Northeast Florida Chapter No. 435, National Sojourners, Inc. put on a “Building of the Flag” program for the Members and guests of the Lodge. National Sojourners, Inc. is an organization of Masons who are also present or past Commissioned Officers or Senior NCO’s of the U.S. Military Services.

The Lodge also heard from John “Robbie” Stokes and Barry Collins, who do many patriotic talks and educational skits on our country’s history.

Amelia Lodge No. 47 Adopt-A-Highway

Brothers of Amelia Lodge No. 47 in Fernandina Beach take part in the Adopt-A-Highway Clean Up program on Fletcher Avenue on March 28, 2015.

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Brother Lummie Deas – 60 Years a Mason

On April 7th, 2015 at 10:00 am, Brother Lummie Deas of Dixie County received his 60 Year Certificate and Gold Pin from R.: W.: Thomas Partin, D.D.G.M. and W.: Roger Pittman on behalf of The Grand Lodge of Florida and Joppa Lodge No. 4 in Old Town Florida. Brother Deas has been a good time Member of Free and Accepted Masons for over 61 years. Brother Deas also enjoyed his 66th wedding anniversary this week. Among his other distinctions, Lummie Deas was a former Air Force pilot during World War II.

Richard E. Lynn, P.G.M., Received as Sojourners, Inc. Hero of ’76

M.: W.: Richard E. Lynn, P.G.M., Grand Secretary of The Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of Florida, was admitted and received as a Member of the National Sojourners, Inc. Heroes of ’76 in Jacksonville, Florida on March 13, 2015. M.: W.: Richard Lynn is pictured here with the Heroes of ’76 at the Florida Area Conference & Encampment in Jacksonville after the Heroes of ’76 Degree. Most Worshipful Lynn is seen sixth from the left in the first row. Also seen were: fourth from left, in the first row, National Sojourners, Inc. National President Elect, James Higdon, fifth from left, Pedro Arroyo, Past National Commander, Heroes of ’76, sixth from left, M.: W.: Richard Lynn, seventh from left, John J. Brown, National Commander, Heroes of ’76; eighth from left, Ronald Sortino, 2nd V. P. National Sojourners; and ninth from left, Ray Vanden Berghe. National Chief of Staff, Heroes of ’76.

Many Brothers and Heroes of ’76 from the various Sojourners Chapters and Heroes of ’76 in Florida joined in initiating and welcoming M.: W.: Richard Lynn, P.G.M., Grand Secretary of The Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. in Florida to the Honor, Fraternity and Fellowship of the Organization.

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge Recognizes Local Heroes

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge, located in Madeira Beach, recently recognized two individuals as Firefighter of the Year and Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. The presentations were made by the Master of the Lodge. Worshipful Travis Palladeno, at the Masonic Temple following a dinner prepared by Junior Warden Steve Fetherman.

The recipients of the award were Lt. Todd I. Ehrmscher, Madeira Beach Fire Rescue who received the Firefighter of the year and Deputy John J. Luckett, Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office who received the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. Both of these gentlemen have shown a dedication to the community that goes above and beyond the call of duty. Both are extremely motivated and go the extra mile in making our community and neighborhood a safer place. Congratulations to a job very well done, and thank you both for your service.

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge was chartered in 1950 and has been an active presence on the Gulf Beaches since that time. For years the Masonic Lodge has been a part of the Adopt-a-Highway program and takes care of the periodic cleanup of portions of Gulf Blvd. and the Tom Stewart Causeway. The Lodge is a strong supporter of many charitable organizations such as the American Heart Association, PARC, the American Lung Association, the St. Petersburg Free Clinic, and many others.

LaBelle Lodge No. 379 Members Volunteer with Local Charity Organization

About ten members of LaBelle Lodge No. 379 took a Saturday in mid-March to volunteer with the Hendry County Give Back Association which provides funds for a member of local charities. The efforts of the Lodge Members made the event the most successful in the three-year history of Give Back.

One of the Give Back organizers is now an Entered Apprentice at LaBelle Lodge and due to the public exposure, the Lodge anticipates receiving more applications. The Give Back organization is made up of men under age 50 who enjoy grill and barbecue pit cooking and are seeking ways to boost the community.

The Masonic team arrived at the park early that Saturday morning with 200 pounds of ice cubes, sweet and unsweet iced tea, bottled water and soft drinks, tables from the Lodge and during the day nearly 500 area residents visited with the Masons’ booth for beverages to accompany BBQ ribs, hamburgers and hotdogs.

Grand Lodge Scholarship Recipients Announced

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida awarded 10 high school seniors in our state $1000 scholarships in March 2015 for the 2015-2016 academic year. The recipients were selected from among almost 60 applications and essays submitted by Masons throughout Florida.

Each scholarship recipient will attend a state-supported college or university in Florida. All scholarships are paid toward the student’s tuition. Each applicant submitted an application form and an essay of no less than 1,000 words nor more than 1,250 words on the topic “Why Education is Important.” Essays were read and scored by four independent graders. The 10 applicants with the highest scores received scholarships. Essays submitted this year were significantly better than those submitted in previous years thus rendering the work of the readers most difficult.

This part of the Public Education and Citizenship program of The Grand Lodge of Florida demonstrates Freemasonry’s strong, historical support for education and future generations. It is a program that serves to promote Freemasonry in our state as it confirms our desire to strengthen minds and encourage positive self-government. Please support this program through our donation to our Masonic Charities. As with all of our activities, its success depends upon the Craft.

Umattila No. 65 Brings Together History, Patriotism & Youth In One Great Evening

By W.: Ed Lisle, P.D.D.G.M. of the Grand 18th Masonic District titled “I am Old Glory.” The Worshipful Master W.: Tony班组ton invited the Young Ladies of Mount Dora Assembly No. 79, International Order of Rainbow for Girls to give a Special Colors Presentation and then he invited the Young Men of Lake-Sumter DeMolay to talk about their Fraternity. Both were very well received. Finally, before the Brothers began the Meeting for the Official Visit, Brother George Washington gave a very nice talk about Masons in History. All in all it was a splendid evening.

New Perpetual Member

At a Meeting at Orange Park Lodge No. 267, M.: W.: Elmier Coffman presented Brother De Haviland Glisson with his Perpetual Membership Card and Certificate.

Fraternally, R.: W.: Jeff Foster, Secretary, Orange Park Lodge No. 267, 511 Kingsley Ave., Orange Park, FL 32073

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A Masonic Surprise for a 65 Mason

The Leesburg Lodge No. 58 Brothers were able to give a surprise to another Brother of ours today at our annual Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner for St. Paddy’s Day. Brother Robert “Bob” Hersh has been unable to attend Lodge for some time now due to having trouble driving at night. His anniversary of 65 Years in Masonry arrived and we wanted to do something different for him. We arranged for his wife to make sure that he came to the dinner, unaware of what was about to happen. Lois was good as her word and showed up with Brother Bob in tow. After they had sat down with their dinners and gotten comfortable, our Worshipful Master, Ron Glover, came into the dining hall and announced that we had a special person in the building today who had reached the milestone of 65 Years in Masonry! He then proceeded to present Brother Hersh with his Certificate from The Grand Lodge and his 65 Year Pin. Brother Hersh thanked us all and said that he had been totally surprised!

Support the Florida Masonic Child ID Program.

The Florida Masonic Child ID Program is attempting to establish uniform policies and procedures across the state, making the program a cornerstone of Florida Masonic activity. To this end, we need your financial support. Please make your $50(63) tax deductible donation to this important and worthy program, in any amount your cable-row will permit. Checks should be made out to Masonic Charities, Inc. with the words "Child ID" on the memo line, and can be sent to:

Masonic Charities of Florida, Inc.
PO Box 1070
Jacksonville, FL 32201

40 Years A Mason

On June 13th 1974 he was Passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft Mason. He received the Degree of Master Mason on October 10th he was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. He became Master of his Lodge in Beavercreek, Ohio in 1980. Worshipful Master Denis Doomee was installed as Master in 1981.

Ormond Beach Lodge Recognizes Outstanding Brothers Labors

Ormond Beach Lodge No. 326, 2014

Worshipful Master Fred Lindes from Amelia Lodge No. 47 in Fernandina Beach congratulates Brother Jelsma.
May 19th, 2015 will be here before-we-know-it and on that date Samuel Levin, center, will become a Centenarian. For ¼ of those years he has been a Mason. He worked for all those 25 years to support his Fraternity and Community. Recently Englewod Masonic Lodge No. 360 presented Brother Levin his 25-year recognition award. Right Worshipful Gene Jeffers (left) conducted the ceremony and presented Brother Sam his award. Worshipful Master Denis Doome is on the right.

Worshipful Fred Lindes recognizes Right Worshipful Danny Fullwood and Worshipful John Pugliese for 25 years of Service to Amelia Lodge No. 47 in Fernandina Beach!

Brother Denny Jelsma receives his 25 year pin from Worshipful Master Fred Lindes at Amelia Lodge No. 47 in Fernandina Beach! Congratulations Brother Jelsma.